

*94*  
a) for a second set of sub-regions, identifying a second set of potential routes that traverse the second set of sub-regions;

b) for each particular path, identifying a path-use cost that is dependent on the number of routes in the second set of potential routes that use the particular path;

c) storing the identified path-use costs for the second set of sub-regions.

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**IN THE ABSTRACT**

On page 175, lines 1-8, please delete the "Abstract of the Invention", and insert therein a new Abstract of the Invention as follows:

**--ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

*95*  
Some embodiments provide a method of pre-computing attributes of routes for nets in a region of a design layout. The pre-computed attributes are used by an electronic design automation application that partitions a design-layout region into a plurality of sub-region.--

**REMARKS**

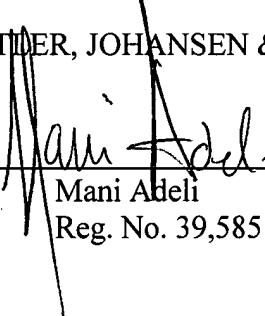
This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application entitled

"Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have changed the title of this application, inserted a reference to the related parent application, canceled claims 1-26, added claims 27-33, and replaced the Summary and Abstract. Accordingly, claims 27-33 are currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/13/02

  
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